

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
**D E P A R T M E N T O F H E A L T H**

*Safe and Healthy Lives in Safe and Healthy Communities*

Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline

In the Matter of Wallace E. Gonsalves, Jr., D.O.

**Summary Suspension**

This matter came to the attention of the Department of Health Boards of Pharmacy and Medical Licensure and Discipline on June 28, 2002. An investigation, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud and Patient Abuse Unit, was undertaken. The primary areas of this investigation included examinations undertaken for the Immigration and Naturalization Service for United States Citizenship; pediatric and adult vaccinations; and prescribing narcotic pain medications.

The following are the Department's Investigative Findings:

1. The Respondent certified on federal forms that he had performed physical examinations and had performed the federally required laboratory work for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. Records indicated that the laboratory work was not completed on 43 applicants for the years 2001 – 2002.
2. The Respondent stored for continuous use expired and / or adulterated vaccine for yellow fever; mumps, rubella, and measles (MMR); polio; hepatitis B; and varicella (chickenpox). An inventory done by the Department of Health on

August 16, 2002 revealed that only two vials of immunization were available for use. All others were outdated or adulterated.

3. The Respondent had expired medications in his examining rooms that included NSAIDS, oral contraceptives, beta agonists and oral inhalers.
4. On June 12, 1998, a 4 month-old infant was vaccinated with MMR 1 and on November 16, 1998 an 11 month-old was vaccinated with MMR 1. This is contrary for the standard of practice for immunizations.
5. Respondent prescribed narcotic medications to patients without acceptable physical examinations; documentation of appropriate follow-up with regard to abnormal laboratory findings and prescribed controlled substances inappropriately. In certain instances, narcotic medications were prescribed to patients for years with no attempt to wean the patients from the narcotic medications or to refer them for appropriate consultation or evaluation.
6. Information in the custody of the Department of Health indicates that the medical practice of the Respondent poses an immediate danger to the health and safety of patients.

## **ORDER**

After consideration of the Investigative Findings and the physical evidence in the possession of the Department of Health, I find that the continuation in the practice of medicine of Wallace E. Gonsalves, Jr., D.O. would constitute an immediate danger to the public.

Accordingly, license number DO247 issued to Wallace E. Gonsalves, Jr., D.O. is hereby suspended pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 5-37-8 until further Order of the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline. The Respondent is entitled to a hearing within 10 days of the effective date below.

*Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH*  
Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH  
Director of Health

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of this ORDER was sent via hand delivery to David Carroll, Esquire, Roberts, Carroll, Feldstein and Pierce, Ten Weybosset Street, Providence, RI 02903, and Wallace E. Gonsalves, Jr., D.O. 1596 Broad Street, Cranston, RI on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2002.

*Sinda Julian*